



Emergency Management & Homeland Security Division Informational Letter



4000 Collins Road
Lansing, MI 48910
www.michigan.gov/emd

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TO: Local and District Emergency Management Coordinators, Michigan Citizen Corps Councils
SUBJECT: Transition of Michigan Citizen Corps Program

Effective May 1, 2006, programmatic and fiscal oversight of the Michigan Citizen Corps Program was transferred from the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG), Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) to the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (EMHSD). All five initiatives of the Citizen Corps Program (Community Emergency Response Teams [CERT], Volunteers in Police Service [VIPS], Neighborhood Watch, Fire Corps, and Medical Reserve Corps [MRC]) will be given equal focus as EMHSD enhances the ongoing coordination with programs conducted by local communities and state agencies.

The decision to transfer the program included consideration of the following:

- Funding to support Citizen Corps Councils with planning, outreach and management of programs and activities originates with the Michigan State Police as the State Administrative Agency (SAA) for homeland security grants,
- Emergency response planning and preparation issues are central to the duties and responsibilities of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division,
- Consolidation of grants through SAA to help ensure that all homeland security funding is leverage for maximum impact, and
- Personnel resources from within the division will more appropriately assist in the growth and expansion of programs and activities on the local level to ensure continuity and expansion.

Many local jurisdictions received sub grants from MCSC directly. To ensure timely reimbursement from those grant agreements, all reimbursements from the 2004 Citizen Corps Program should continue to be submitted to MCSC.

Focus Group

During the program transition, EMHSD will perform an initial assessment of past activities, and conduct outreach with local Citizen Corps Councils and programs. Future funding availability will be announced on a statewide basis. In addition, a statewide focus group will be convened over the summer. The mission of the focus group will be to ensure community preparedness activities across the state are consistent with the guidance that is being published by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and meets the needs of state and local agencies and local communities. The focus group will also assist in the development of a multi-year strategic plan to ensure not only better prepared communities in Michigan, but a comprehensive approach to the management of community volunteer resources during emergencies. We are seeking representation from each of the five Citizen Corps initiatives, so where possible, regions should focus on broad representation. Membership on the focus group will be determined in the near future, interested parties should contact Jay Roorbach at 517-333-4395 or roorbacj@michigan.gov by July 21, 2006, for representation consideration on the focus group.

Contact Information

The following personnel are available to answer any questions with regards to the transition of the program to EMHSD. Additionally, we will be developing a website for the program and a LISTSERV that has proven successful for disseminating information relevant to the program.

Program Contacts:

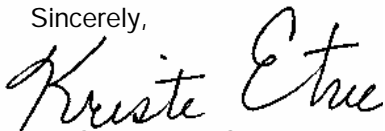
Mr. Jay Roorbach (Program Coordinator)
MSP - Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division
4000 Collins Road
Lansing, MI 48910
TX 517-333-4395
FAX 517-336-6482
roorbacj@michigan.gov or citizencorps@michigan.gov

Sgt. Kevin Sweeney (CERT, VIPS, Neighborhood Watch)
MSP - Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division
4000 Collins Road
Lansing, MI 48910
TX 517-336-6429
FAX 517-336-6482
sweeneyk@michigan.gov

Ms. Colleen Mohr (Medical Reserve Corps, Fire Corps)
MSP - Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division
4000 Collins Road
Lansing, MI 48910
TX 517-336-6464
FAX 517-336-6482
mohrc@michigan.gov

EMHSD looks forward to coordinating citizen and community preparedness activities associated with Citizen Corps, but this program will only be successful with all of your support. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jay Roorbach at 517-333-4395.

Sincerely,



KRISTE ETUE, CAPTAIN
Deputy State Director of Emergency Management
and Homeland Security

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